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ADVOCATE MORE STREAMLINED SUPERVISION OF CONSTRUCTION

/Numbers in parentheses refer to appended sources./

According to the Soviet Constitution, the city soviet of every city in the USSR is the master of municipal construction. However, many city soviets do not exercise their rights fully.

For example, the real builders of the city of Zaporozh'ye are the enterprises subordinated to the all-Union or republic ministries of the various industries. They spend hundreds of millions every year for housing construction, whereas the city's share, together with the contributions of the oblast and republic, amounts to only 2-4 percent of the total expenditure. Consequently, the activities of the city soviet are confined merely to coordinating the building plans of different industrial enterprises with its own general plan for reconstruction of the city as a whole.

However, the city soviet is not always successful in carrying out this function. In many incidents, large blocks of apartment houses which were built during the last year, could not be occupied, because water, sewage, and heating facilities were not yet available and the streets were not yet paved.

Furthermore, the industrial enterprises have located their housing projects in such a way that the city of Zaporozh'ye now consists of numerous settlements of which the larger ones alone number more than 20. These settlements are 2-10 kilometers apart, thus making it exceedingly difficult and expensive for the city to provide electricity, roads, communications, and water.

The coordination of building activities by different agencies becomes more and more necessary. It is suggested that the funds for housing projects be taken away from the industrial enterprises and concentrated in the hands of city soviets who will have the sole responsibility for city construction.(1)

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Since the 1950 plan for building schools and hospitals was not fulfilled in Moscow, a special administration, "Moskul'tstroy" (Main Administration for Cultural and Welfare Construction) was organized in February 1951, with an appropriation of 140 million rubles for the construction of schools, hospitals, and nurseries. The new administration should be organized in such a way that beginning with next year it will be capable of building annually not less than 40 schools, 30 or 40 nurseries, and 10 hospitals.(2) It has already started the construction of 12 schools which are to be completed this year.(3)

Also, in the Belorussian SSR, it was recognized that a single construction administration would improve capital construction and would save the government administrative expenses. At present, this republic has three main construction administrations: Ministry of Housing and Civilian Construction, Glavpromstroy (Main Administration of Industrial Construction), Council of Ministers Belorussian SSR, and the Administration for the Restoration of the City of Minsk.(4)

Speeding up construction by means of new labor-saving devices and mechanical equipment also requires speeding up of the preparation of drawings and specifications. However, in practice, drawings are usually late, thus retarding construction considerably. The existing step-by-step system of preparing drawings by passing them in succession through different branches of designers should be changed to a brigade system in which all the special construction branches are represented. This system enables the branches to prepare the drawings simultaneously, thus reducing the time required for making drawings almost by two thirds. The new system also increases efficiency by 30-40 percent, thus reducing the cost of preparing projects by 30-40 percent. The State Committee for Construction Affairs should introduce this system, which is already 12 years old, on a large scale to enable the planning organizations to speed up their work.(5)

The Supreme Soviet Estonian SSR approved the Ukase of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet Estonian SSR, dated 17 November 1950, to merge the Ministries of Housing and Civilian Construction and Construction-Materials Industry Estonian SSR into the Ministry of Housing and Civilian Construction Estonian SSR.(6)

## SOURCES

1. Moscow, Izvestiya, 5 Apr 51
2. Moscow, Vechernyaya Moskva, 4 Apr 51
3. Moskovskaya Pravda, 28 Feb 51
4. Moscow, Izvestiya, 4 Mar 51
5. Moscow, Pravda, 28 Feb 51
6. Tallin, Sovetskaya Estoniya, 1 Apr 51

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